

**Table 18. Breastfeeding by mothers 15–44 years of age by year of baby's birth, according to selected characteristics of mother: United States, average annual 1972–74 to 1993–94**

[Data are based on household interviews of samples of women in the childbearing ages]

<i>Selected characteristics of mother</i>	<i>1972–74</i>	<i>1975–77</i>	<i>1978–80</i>	<i>1981–83</i>	<i>1984–86</i>	<i>1987–89</i>	<i>1990–92</i>	<i>1993–94</i>
Percent of babies breastfed								
Total . . . . .	30.1	36.7	47.5	58.1	54.5	52.3	54.2	58.1
Race and Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup>								
White, non-Hispanic . . . . .	32.5	38.9	53.2	64.3	59.7	58.3	59.1	61.2
Black, non-Hispanic . . . . .	12.5	16.8	19.6	26.0	22.9	21.0	22.9	27.5
Hispanic . . . . .	33.1	42.9	46.3	52.8	58.9	51.3	58.8	67.4
Education <sup>2</sup>								
No high school diploma or GED <sup>3</sup> . . .	14.0	19.4	27.6	31.4	36.8	30.0	38.6	43.0
High school diploma or GED <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	25.0	33.6	40.2	54.3	46.7	46.6	46.0	51.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree. . .	35.2	43.5	63.2	66.7	66.1	57.8	60.7	65.9
Bachelor's degree or higher. . . . .	65.5	66.9	71.3	83.2	75.3	79.2	80.8	80.6
Geographic region								
Northeast. . . . .	29.9	34.7	49.3	68.2	55.3	49.9	54.0	56.7
Midwest. . . . .	22.3	30.9	34.4	46.0	50.9	50.4	51.6	49.7
South . . . . .	30.6	33.1	49.5	57.9	45.3	42.5	43.6	49.7
West . . . . .	47.1	54.5	66.6	69.9	70.9	69.1	70.5	79.3
Age at baby's birth								
Under 20 years . . . . .	17.0	22.1	31.4	31.0	30.6	26.2	35.2	45.3
20–24 years. . . . .	28.7	33.5	44.7	50.8	50.2	46.7	44.7	50.9
25–29 years. . . . .	38.7	45.9	53.6	62.2	59.8	57.1	56.5	55.9
30–44 years. . . . .	43.1	47.5	55.2	73.1	65.9	65.3	67.5	71.1
Percent of breastfed babies who were breastfed 3 months or more <sup>4</sup>								
Total . . . . .	62.3	66.2	64.7	68.3	63.2	61.5	61.0	56.2
Race and Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup>								
White, non-Hispanic . . . . .	62.1	66.7	67.6	68.1	62.5	62.3	62.6	56.8
Black, non-Hispanic . . . . .	47.8	60.7	58.5	61.1	56.8	46.9	56.7	45.4
Hispanic . . . . .	64.7	62.7	46.3	65.6	66.4	64.3	58.2	55.5
Education <sup>2</sup>								
No high school diploma or GED <sup>3</sup> . . .	54.4	54.7	53.7	50.5	59.8	57.3	55.5	44.5
High school diploma or GED <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	53.7	62.5	59.4	59.6	58.0	58.3	58.2	49.7
Some college, no bachelor's degree. . .	69.5	77.2	63.8	73.3	63.4	60.7	53.8	60.2
Bachelor's degree or higher. . . . .	69.2	65.3	79.8	80.9	72.2	68.1	73.8	68.1
Geographic region								
Northeast. . . . .	64.6	68.2	71.2	75.0	64.8	59.7	72.7	58.7
Midwest. . . . .	44.4	54.3	53.1	64.4	60.4	58.6	63.1	56.7
South . . . . .	72.6	74.1	67.6	65.0	60.3	55.2	50.8	50.9
West . . . . .	69.0	70.6	66.8	69.6	66.9	69.9	60.4	59.0
Age at baby's birth								
Under 20 years . . . . .	50.0	61.0	48.2	49.1	62.5	56.3	31.9	22.6
20–24 years. . . . .	57.7	59.4	60.0	63.7	51.9	51.6	54.0	50.6
25–29 years. . . . .	68.3	71.5	65.1	70.8	65.6	58.3	59.7	63.7
30–44 years. . . . .	79.4	72.8	81.5	72.8	73.2	73.5	71.8	62.3

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>2</sup>For women 22–44 years of age. Education is as of year of interview. See NOTES below.

<sup>3</sup>General equivalency diploma.

<sup>4</sup>For mothers interviewed in the first 3 months of 1995, only babies age 3 months and over are included so they would be eligible for breastfeeding for 3 months or more.

NOTES: Data on breastfeeding during 1972–83 are based on responses to questions in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) Cycle 4, conducted in 1988. Data for 1984–94 are based on the NSFG Cycle 5, conducted in 1995. Data are based on all births to mothers 15–44 years of age at interview, including those births that occurred when the mothers were younger than 15 years of age.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics. Data from the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 4 1988, Cycle 5 1995.